

The GOHSEP FOCUS

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness

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Directors Message



Disasters can strike at any time, thus proven by last weeks severe weather event.

Our team of dedicated employees stand to serve Louisiana during these emergency situations.

I want to take this time to thank each and every one of you who participated in the response and recovery efforts for this severe weather event.

I would also like to thank all of our local parishes for their continued partnership and open communications.

It's from this unified effort that Louisiana has improved its response and recovery efforts.



Governor Jindal Declares a State of Emergency

Governor Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency on April 27, 2015 due to a severe weather outbreak. The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a series of Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, Severe Weather Statements, Tornado Watches and Tornado Warnings as the very strong system moved quickly across the state.

As a result, thousands of southern Louisiana residents were left without power forcing some local energy providers to bring in additional resources. Flash flooding and storm-related debris blocked many local and state highways and roads forcing some to be closed down for a period of time.

Wind gust recorded in excess of 60 mph downed utility poles, snapped power lines, and uprooted trees. Five rail cars carrying six to eight freight containers were blown off the Huey P. Long Bridge in New Orleans due to the high winds and gusts.



The National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed five (5) tornado touchdowns across south Louisiana.. These tornadoes ranged from strengths of EF-0 to EF-1, causing minor damages in the below locations.

- Kenner, Jefferson Parish
- Pierre Part, Assumption Parish
- Napoleonville, Assumption Parish
- Chackbay, Lafourche Parish
- Bayou Gauche, St. Charles Parish

Assumption and Lafourche parishes issued their own State of Emergency's as they were among the hardest hit by this storm. Red Cross opened a shelter in Assumption Parish for about a day to assist those residents seeking shelter after the severe weather outbreak.



GOHSEP sent Individual Assistance (IA) and Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) teams and a joint FEMA/State Public Assistance (PA) team to Assumption Parish to conduct (PDA's) on Wednesday, April 29th. After the completion of PDA's the State decided it will not request a Major Disaster Declaration for this event.



Following the tragic events on September 11, 2001, the 9/11 Commission recommended the establishment of a nationwide, interoperable public safety communications network to help resolve communications challenges faced by emergency responders.

Signed into law in February 2012, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). This law gives FirstNet the mission to build, operate and maintain the first high-speed, nationwide wireless



broadband network dedicated to public safety. The specialized communication efforts of FirstNet are made possible by a State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP).

Louisiana FirstNet is managed through a cooperative effort between the GOHSEP and the LSP. Currently, Louisiana FirstNet representatives are traveling throughout the state to inform public safety officials about this unique data communications opportunity. For more information on upcoming presentation dates and their location visit the ["GOHSEP Registration Portal"](#).

For more information on the dedicated public safety network visit ["Louisiana FirstNet"](#).



Congratulations to St. Charles Parish for being newly accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP).

Accreditation recognizes the ability of programs to bring together personnel, resources, and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for and in response to a disaster of any type.

EMAP fosters excellence and accountability in emergency management and homeland security programs, by establishing standards. The Emergency Management Standard, designed by EMAP, are used as tools for continuous improvement as part of the voluntary accreditation process for local and state emergency management programs.

To find out more information on this program and it's accreditation program visit the [EMAP](#) website.



Live Better Louisiana is a game plan for better health. It's a proactive approach—a way to prevent illness when you can and to manage any condition that do appear.

Physical activity is only one part of living a longer, healthier life. It's also important that you **know your numbers** (blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, body mass index (BMI), and waist circumference and understand what they mean.

Participating in a Live Better Louisiana wellness clinic can help you with that! To sign up for one of these clinics, or to search for a date that works better for you, click here www.timeconfirm.com/ogb.



Employee Appreciation Breakfast

In honor of our GOHSEP Employees, we will hold an Employee Appreciation Breakfast on **May 15, 2015**, at both the Independence and Joint Field Offices. Our employees will be served biscuits, juice and milk, by the Management Team, beginning at 7:45 am and lasting until approximately 8:45 am.

GOHSEP Awards Ceremony

GOHSEP will hold its 2015 Awards Ceremony on **May 29, 2015**, at 10:00 am at the Louisiana State Police Training Academy located on Independence Blvd. We will recognize those employees who have demonstrated exceptional performance or made significant contributions over the past year.



GOHSEP has won the Communications Awards for it's Citizen Corps brochure in two categories: the 2015 Silver Award of Distinction/Consumer Awareness, and the 2012 Silver Award of Distinction/Educational.

The Communicator Awards honors work that transcends innovation and craft by providing winners the recognition they



deserve. The Award of Excellence is the highest honor that can be achieved, with the Award of Distinction presented for projects that exceed industry standards.

A big thanks to all GOHSEP members whom participated in the development and design of the Citizen Corps brochure!



Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Pavan K. Parvatha on the addition to their family!!!

Nivrithi (Nivvi) Reddy Parvatha

Born on Friday, May 8, 2015



The University of Louisiana in Monroe (ULM) held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new state-of-the-art Doppler radar on May 6, 2015.

This \$3M project is being funded through GOHSEP's hazard mitigation grant program. The radar system itself will be built off-site and delivered to

ULM by the fall.

ULM is the only university in the state that offers an atmospheric science program, and will be able to offer hands-on training with the new Doppler radar.

The Doppler radar system will also be available to GOHSEP, the National Weather Services and various media outlets in the region. Agencies will use the system to announce more accurate warnings when severe weather occurs.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 10th - Crystal Golden

May 11th - Brian Fox

May 12th - Elton Noland & Rhonda Roberts

May 13th - Shawanda Hayes & Kevin Davis

May 15th - Donna Robinson

May 17th - Beverly James & Dana Bruno

May 19th - Tina Emerson

May 20th - Carlton Jones

May 21st - Chalonda Thomas, James Slane & Tony Johnson

May 23rd - Justin Montague

May 24th - Jennifer Lightell

Thomas Forehand
Public Assistance
Disaster Recovery
Specialist

SAY HELLO TO OUR
NEW HIRES
FROM THIS MONTH!



Melton Gaspard
Operations Assistant Section Chief

WEATHER THE STORM

A new feature to a free FEMA app will enable user to receive **Weather Alerts** from the National Weather Service for up to 5 locations across the nation.

FEMA's new weather alert feature adds to existing features to help residents through emergencies.

The latest version of this app is available for free in the App Store for Apple devices and Google Play for Android devices. User that already have the app downloaded to their device should download the latest update for the weather alert feature.

WEATHER THE STORM DOWNLOAD THE FEMA APP



- ✓ Get tips to survive natural disasters, customize your emergency checklist, and save missing locations.
- ⚡ Receive alerts from the National Weather Service.
- ⊕ Locate open shelters and Disaster Recovery Centers, and apply for assistance.
- 📷 Upload and share your disaster photos.
- 💬 Stay connected on social media and the FEMA blog.



On April 30th in support of National PrepareAthon Day FEMA Region VI hosted activities at the Baton Rouge JFO for both federal and state employees. The National Weather Service provided a presentation and the Baton Rouge Fire Department provided a fire extinguisher demonstration.



Tornadoes can strike anywhere in the US with little to no warning and are capable of causing significant loss of life and billions in damages. It is important that **EVERY** community be prepared by understanding tornadoes and the associated dangers.

GOHSEP is hosting a number of Tornado Awareness Courses throughout the state. This course is modeled to include the science of a tornado, the weather forecast process, tornado warning process and promote tornado safety.

Registration: To register, sign up on the GOHSEP Training Registration page: <http://register.gohsep.la.gov/form/PRForm.php>

Point of Contact: Barrett Nugent (POC/SAA)

Phone: 225-358-5690

Email: barrett.nugent@la.gov

Courses of Interest are listed below:

getting it right!



(please check our GOHSEP Training site for all listings)

Response

⇒ LEPC: Emergency Planning + Response Workshop

Louisiana FirstNet

⇒ FN 001: FirstNet Outreach

Preparedness Classes

- ⇒ School Emergency Management Grant (SMEG) Kickoff Meetings
- ⇒ ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders
- ⇒ AWR: 315: Criminal Intelligence Analysis Essentials
- ⇒ MGT 341: Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals & Healthcare Organizations within the Community Infrastructure
- ⇒ MGT 416: Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities
- ⇒ Intermediate Social Media Tools and Techniques

Request For Articles

If you would like to include your information/article in future issues of

The GOHSEP Focus, please contact:

Allison Hadley or Mike Steele
(225) 718-1815 (225) 925-3966

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